

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's amendment to the claims and arguments, see page 6, filed May 26, 2009, with respect to the double patenting rejection of claims 1 and 6 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The double patenting rejection of December 26, 2008 has been withdrawn.
2. Applicant's amendments to the claims and arguments, see pages 6-11, filed May 26, 2009, with respect to the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1, 2, 3, 12, and 14 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of December 26, 2008 has been withdrawn.
3. Applicant's amendments to the claims and arguments see pages 6-11, filed May 26, 2008, with respect to the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 1-16 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of December 26, 2008 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3-6, 12-13, 15-16 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art neither anticipates nor renders obvious the combination of limitations found in the independent claims, specifically holding an axial intermediate portion of the raw material in dented portions and disposing of the axial end portions in with guides that are axial movable within the dented portions and holding the

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schedule diameter-enlarging portion to prevent buckling. Soga et al. US Patent No. 6,427,326 discloses a method for manufacturing a rod with simultaneous punches on the end of the workpiece, but does not disclose punching the workpiece in the axial direction simultaneously with guides of scheduled diameter-enlarging portions or preventing occurrence of defective shapes and buckling as disclosed in claims 1 and 12. Nielsen US Patent No. 5,626,522 teaches a method for expanding a bar-shaped workpiece with scheduled diameter-enlarging portions, but only teaches axial expansion on one side of the bar. There is no motivation to combine Nielsen and Soga to render the limitations of claims 1 and 12 obvious as the combination of limitations from Nielsen and Soga would render the device inefficient.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephanie Jennings whose telephone number is (571) 270-7392. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7 am - 5:30 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dana Ross can be reached on (571) 272-4480. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. J./
Examiner, Art Unit 3725
October 8, 2009

/Dana Ross/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3725